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December 22, 2003

Julie L. Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road, N.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Gerberding,

I invite you to testify before the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources on Wednesday, January 28, 2004 at 10 a.m. in 2154 Rayburn House Office Building regarding the status of federal efforts related to cervical cancer and human papillomavirus (HPV).

Public Law 106-554 required the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to issue a report on the "best strategies to prevent future [HPV] infections, based on the available science" not later than December 21, 2003. The CDC yesterday missed this statutory deadline.

HPV poses a significant risk to the health of countless Americans, especially women. As you know, infection with high risk strains of HPV is associated with nearly all cervical cancer. About 20 million Americans are currently infected with HPV and an estimated 5.5 million Americans become infected with HPV every year. An estimated 13,000 new cases of invasive cervical cancer are diagnosed annually and over 4,000 women die of the disease every year in the United States. Tens of thousands of others will be treated for HPV related pre-cancerous conditions.

Because of the importance of protecting the public from HPV, this Subcommittee as well as other Congressional committees have periodically inquired about the steps being taken by the CDC over the three years since the law was signed by President Clinton.

Most recently on November 17, members of my Subcommittee staff along with representatives from the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee, House Energy and Commerce Committee, Republican Study Committee and the office of Congressman Dave Weldon, M.D. held a teleconference with CDC staff including Dr. Ed Thompson and Dr. Harold Jaffee. Dr. Thompson disclosed at this meeting that the legally mandated HPV prevention report “will not be made” by the statutory deadline. Dr. Thompson and CDC staff committed that CDC would issue the HPV prevention report by the third week of January.


With January designated as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, it is critically important that CDC fulfill its commitment and issue the HPV prevention report based upon currently available and medically accurate scientific data, as required by law.

I invite you to present the CDC’s HPV prevention recommendations before the Subcommittee on January 28. Witnesses will be afforded an opportunity to testify for five minutes. Your written statement for the record may be of any length.

In accordance with Subcommittee procedure, please e-mail your testimony to [Nicole.Garrett@mail.house.gov](mailto:Nicole.Garrett@mail.house.gov) and provide one hundred (100) copies of your prepared statement by close of business Tuesday, January 27.

Thank you for your contribution to this important Congressional hearing. We look forward to your valuable insights. If you have any questions, please contact me or Roland Foster of my staff at (202) 225-2577.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Souder", written in a cursive style.

Mark E. Souder

Chairman

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice,

Drug Policy and Human Resources